



Education Watch

Enhancing Flexibility & Accountability ■ Leaving No Child Behind

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H.R. 1 Agreement Helps to Rally “Armies of Compassion”

Major agreements on school prayer and protections for the Boy Scouts of America earned headlines following Tuesday’s meeting of the House-Senate education conference. But Republican and Democrat negotiators also gave a boost Tuesday night to President Bush’s efforts to “rally the armies of compassion,” approving a provision in the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act that allows religious and faith-based groups to receive federal funds to fight violence and drug abuse in America’s communities.

As President Bush has noted, as many as 15 million children and young Americans are at risk of never reaching productive adulthood — falling prey to crime, drugs and other problems that make it difficult to obtain an education, successfully enter the workforce, or otherwise contribute to society.

House and Senate negotiators working to complete the H.R. 1 conference report have agreed to renew a provision allowing religious organizations and other community-based groups that provide safety and drug abuse prevention programs to apply for funds under the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act. Moreover, GOP conferees continue to push for provisions that let parents with children in failing schools use federal funds for supplemental services, such as tutoring from faith-based educational providers.

The agreement on Safe and Drug-Free Schools will help to ensure that the boundless energy and compassion of America’s communities can be brought to bear on the problems of youth violence and drug abuse. It’s just one more way in which H.R. 1 will help to ensure that no child is left behind.

Message of the Day

H.R. 1 reflects President Bush's four principles of education reform: accountability for improved student achievement; flexibility and local control; expanded options for parents; and funding for what works.

- ❑ *Tuesday’s agreements include important protections for school prayer, home schools, Boy Scouts, and military recruiters.*
- ❑ *GOP education leaders are working to ensure that the final conference report on H.R. 1 will provide new flexibility for states and local schools, as well as expanded options for parents.*
- ❑ *After 35 years of mixed results and failing schools, the status quo in public education must end.*

DAILY EDUCATION FACTS

- Tuesday’s agreement ratified would encourage the involvement of faith-based groups and other community-based organizations in providing safety and drug abuse programs.
- The agreement also codifies the exemption for home schools in the Gun Free Schools Act, clarifying that the term “school” does not include a home school.
- Conferees also ratified a provision to help teachers do their jobs. Schools would be asked to develop policies that allow teachers to maintain control of the classroom so that students can learn.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“In our society, we should not fear faith and the power of faith, and the volunteers who are motivated by faith. We need to welcome it.” -- President George W. Bush, remarks in Waco, Texas, August 8, 2001